



COMMANDING OFFICER

MARINE CORPS BASE, CAMP LEJEUNE



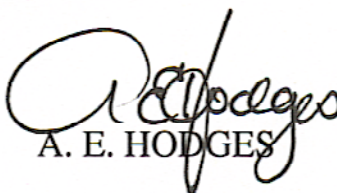
STATEMENT ON CULTURAL HERITAGE DAY

The Cultural Heritage Day at Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune will be an annual event honoring diversity and celebrating our common heritage – the American heritage. As Americans we epitomize unity through freedom. We are united in the strengths of diversity, a nation of great resources and opportunities, all of which can be attributed to the contributions and achievements from men and women of various racial, cultural and ethnic backgrounds.

On October 20, 2006, Marines, Sailors, civilians, family and friends are invited to share the traditions that fill us with pride in knowing who we are and what we have become. This event is intended to serve as recognition of achievements, a venue for education, and a day of cultural celebration.

As the Commanding Officer of Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, I believe in this effort and will encourage the full support and participation of our military and civilian community. This is an opportunity to increase awareness and gain appreciation for those men and women that have given of themselves to build this nation.

As C.S Patton said, "Today's diverse team of men and women of virtually every racial, cultural, ethnic and economic background is the very strength of our Corps." Taking that idea one step further, diversity and understanding equates to teamwork, the very strength of our nation. Teamwork is our cohesion, and that is the American Heritage.


A. E. HODGES